

NOTE: The address was recorded at 11:15 a.m. on December 14 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on December 15. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press

Secretary on December 14, but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

## Statement on the Death of Representative Julia M. Carson *December 15, 2007*

Laura and I are saddened by the death of Representative Julia Carson. Throughout her decade of service in the U.S. House of Representatives and her nearly 20 years in the Indiana General Assembly, Representative Carson served her constituents in Indianapolis with passion and commitment. She was revered as a champion for building strong and safe communities, working to end homelessness, improving fi-

nancial literacy for all Americans, and helping her constituents achieve and maintain the dream of homeownership.

Julia was a dedicated and admired public servant who will be missed by her many friends and colleagues both at home in Indiana and in our Nation's Capital. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends.

## Remarks on the National Economy and a Question-and-Answer Session in Fredericksburg, Virginia *December 17, 2007*

*The President.* Thank you, all. Please be seated. Ralph, thanks for the invitation. Thanks for the gift; it was planted by the first George W. [*Laughter*] I'm glad to be here at the Rotary Club. I have spent some quality times at rotary clubs, whether it was asking for votes or selling baseball tickets. [*Laughter*] I could never get admitted to any of the clubs in Texas cause my voice wasn't good enough. [*Laughter*] But I'm proud to be with you. Thanks for letting me come by and share some thoughts with you about our economy, what's happening in Washington. And if time permits, I'll be glad to answer some questions, if you have any.

I also want to thank the chamber for having me as well. Appreciate what you're

doing. People say—they're probably wondering why would—old George W. has got something important to say; why would he bother to come to a place out in the country? And the answer is, because this is where jobs are created; this is where dreams are lived; this is where values are upheld. And so I'm proud to be with you. It kind of reminds me of being in Texas, to come to a place where there's just down-to-earth people that are trying to do what's best for their families and their communities. And so I'm honored to be with you. I appreciate you letting me come by.

Ralph, thanks for the invitation. I also want to thank Bob Hagin. And I'm proud to be here with Congressman Eric Cantor from Richmond, Virginia, as well as newly